

An Essay.
on the
Disease of the Teeth.

Respectfully Submitted
to the Faculty of the
Homoeopathic Medical College
of Pennsylvania

By

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Gentlemen

There are not many diseases that are more prevalent in all seasons of the year than those arising from the teeth. And they are generally of such a character that require the advice or skill of the physician.

And as those organs are of so much importance to the healthy maintenance of all the organs in the economy of man, And add so much to the personal appearances of the individual; that we think a few words as to some of their diseases and the mode of cure will be fully appreciated.

There are many.

Diseases which effects those beautiful organs, which causes their removal almost imperative, And in many cases they are removed when they were not the cause of the disease, but giving pain through sympathy of the nervous system.

There are many diseases that are remote from those organs which have their origin in them, and therefore must be examined in order to learn the difficulty. And when our attention are called to them we should make a careful examination of all; for the pain may be felt in one of the superior ones, while the cause is located in one of the inferior; and

An insisor may be very painful
and pass through all the stages of in-
flammation to supperation; while the
cause is located in one of the pos-
terior teeth, and the dentes sapientiae
are more liable to give rise to this
kind of inflammation to the insisors
than any other of the dental organs.

I recollect a case of a gentle
man who was suffering with a pain-
ful abscess of the ear, which had
occurred at different periods for four
years, and no relief could be given
him only in large doses of Morphia
until the abscess discharged, when he
would gain his usual good health;
at the time that I seen him he
applied to a dentist for the purpose

of having the right superior lateral incisor removed, as it was giving him great pain, and it commenced about the same time that the pain in his ear; but upon examination the tooth was found to be in a healthy state and the dentist therefore refused to remove it, and as the pain was very severe in ear and also the tooth led the dentist to suspect that some of the other organs were the cause of this trouble; and in making a careful examination of them, he found that tapping with the handle of his instrument the second superior right molar that it caused an aggravation of the pain in his ear, which seemed to form some connection with this tooth,

and as the tooth had been filled
some five years previous, the dentist
supposed that the pulp had become
diseased and was the cause of the
difficulty, and when once expressed
by him, the patient insisted upon
its removal, which ~~was~~ immediately
done, and upon examination the pulp
was found dead and fetid, while a
quantity of matter was discharged
and the pain in the ear and lateral
insides gradually subsided, and he
has had no return of the disease
in his ear since which is now over
four years. And I have no doubt that
had this disease been treated with our
remedies ~~from~~ the first appearance of
the inflammation, the tooth would have

useful, and performed all the functions of mastication, and had the pulp been removed after it became diseased, and then filled with good gold foil, it would be retained in the mouth as long as any of the other organs.

Another case of disease which arose from a tooth, was a large tumor in the throat, which caused great inconvenience in deglutition, and at times was very painful, it was situated immediately behind the tonsil gland, and it was also enlarged and painful, he had the tonsil extirpated and the enlargement went away with lunar caustic; but would soon reappear, and it was thus treated by a medical gentleman

for some two years without any good results, At the time that I seen it he was suffering with it and a small hard painfull swelling at the ~~inferior~~ posterior angle of the inferior Maxilla and he had applied to a dentist for the purpose of having his teeth examined to see if they could in any way be implicated in producing this last named swelling, and upon examination it was ascertained that the third inferior molar was the cause of the difficulty. Although it was not much decayed but it gave pain by striking with an instrument; and it was therefore removed, and as in the other case the pulp was dead, and a small hard substance was attached to the

root, which had caused absorption of the root for the distance of an eighth of an inch, After its removal the tumor on the angle of the jaw passed away, and in the space of a few months his throat was free of pain and is now entirely well.

The teeth very frequently give pain, and become very much diseased and if removed without a careful examination we would not be able to give that relief which should follow their removal, and in our examination we should be careful to ascertain if any disease of some other organ may not be the cause of the pain complained of in the tooth, As in the case of a lady who applied to me to have the

first Superior left Molar extracted
as it had given her very much
pain for some six or eight days, and
was then so sore that she could not
touch it without giving pain, and
it was so sensitive that cool air
and cold drinks effected it, and
it had been filled about a year
previous she thought that that was
the cause, as the nerve had been
destroyed with arsenious acid and
removed and then filled, she was
then in her seventh month of ~~her~~
pregnancy, ^{and} she was fearful to have
it removed, ^{but} was determined to
have the offending member out;
but on examination of the tooth
I found ~~it~~ filled and in good condition

and I refused to extract it, and in
place assured her that the pain
could be removed without taking out
the tooth, so it is always best to
try and save those organs, and fail, than
not to try at all, so I gave her Cocculus
and Opium in alternation which removed
the pain and the sensation in the space
of six or eight hours, and the steel
retains the tooth with the use as
any of the others, and it remains in
a healthy condition.

With these two remedies in
such cases of painful teeth I have never
failed in removing, But I do not
always use them in alternation, I cured
a painful toothache which the lady had
been suffering for over a month with

Opia, and when it relieves without entirely removing the pain, I follow with Cocculus or give it in alternation.

There are many teeth which are very sensitive, and causes much pain in filling, and the mechanical irritation induced in filling them will often produce inflammation of the root which if not arrested in its first stages will go on to suppuration and destroy the living pulp, and produce a fistulous opening through the alveolar process. which cannot be cured until the dead pulp is removed and its place filled with pure gold, when the inflammation is first felt Arnica may be given and should it not prove sufficient Belladonna or Mer; Sol,

should follow if indicated, with these three medicines I have never failed in removing this severe suffering which the patient would have to suffer or else have the organ removed, which should not be done, for all teeth that have crowns sufficient to retain a filling can be rendered healthy and useful with proper treatment.

A gentleman applied to me to have the first superior right molar extracted as it had caused him so much pain that he had no rest for the two nights previous, I examined the tooth and found it sound and healthy and refused to comply with his request, and as he was suffering with a small red looking boil upon

the cheek immediately below the malar bone, and I suspected it to be the cause of the difficulty, and as he complained of a throbbing pain in the tooth I gave him Belladonna to take every three hours until I heard from him the next day, telling him to cease taking the medicine when the pain in his tooth left, and when I seen him on the following day the toothache was gone and the boil was nearly gone, so much so that there was no pain in it, and was entirely gone in a few days.

Merry of the neuralgic pains which are confined to the fifth pair of nerves either have their origin in the teeth, or else the teeth become

affected by this affection, and we
should look well to the cause and
place where the seat of the affection
is or else we will not be able
to give the necessary relief, and may
through our ignorance remove the
evil without affording the patient
but momentary relief, and will
mostly aggravate the symptoms. A
lady who had been under treatment
of the old school for more than a
year for neuralgia, of the left side
of the face and neck without
experiencing any cessation from
her suffering, and her physician
telling her that the disease could
not be cured without she would
have her teeth extracted; which

she consented to do, and applied
to me for that purpose, I examined
her mouth and found ~~that~~ one
decayed tooth, and that was a
small stump of the second bicu-
pid which I told her was not the
cause of the difficulty, but being
advised by her medical friend that
her teeth must be removed before she
could receive any benefit from medicine
nothing would satisfy her but the removal
of some of them, and as the stump
was of no use to her I removed
it; telling her to call again to have
some of the others taken out, but
on the next day she applied to me
again, saying that the pain was
much worse, and she must now

have them out so that she might
receive some cessation of ~~suffering~~
I made an other minute exam-
ination and I found them all in
a healthy condition, and desirous
to remove them which she did not
willingly receive, saying that if I did
not others would, I then remarked
to her that I thought that I could
remove the difficulty in a few days
if she would place herself under
my care, which she at first refused
remarking that a dentist did not
know how to treat such a disease
so well as her physician, I remarked
that it was out of my sphere, yet
I did not like to see people suffering
when I had the means to relieve them

After consulting with the friend
that came with her she consented to
go according to my advice, I gave
her a few probers of Aconite, which
gave her ease in twenty-four hours
and remained much better through
the day and when night came, or she
laid down to sleep it recurred, with
beating and throbbing sensation, I
followed the Aconite with belladonna
and in less than three weeks, she
was free from pain, and has not felt
the least symptoms of its recurrence
since which is now over ten months.

Thus I might go on adding case
to case which has come under my
notice in the three last years of practice
which I treated all diseases by the

Homoeopathic law of cure that
come within my practice, and with
the most signal success.